

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AGR-01 TRSY-02
ACDA-12 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02
DOE-15 FMC-01 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /161 W
-----092673 200352Z /15

R 191105Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5264
USMISSION GENEVA
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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ALSO FOR OECD PARIS
ALSO FOR EC BRUSSELS
DEPT PASS TO US COAST GUARD
GENEVA PASS TO US LOS DEL

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PLOS, EWWT, PORG, IMCO, FR
SUBJECT: LOS-IMCO: FRENCH PROPOSALS IN IMCO FOLLOWING
AMOCO CADIZ DISASTER AND PROTECTION OF THE
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MARINE ENVIRONMENT

REF: A) GENEVA 5657 (NOTAL); B) LONDON 4958 (NOTAL);
C) GENEVA 4399 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: AT THE IMCO MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE
MEETING APRIL 17-21, FRANCE HAS PROPOSED CHANGES TO

TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEMES ALONG ITS COAST AIMED AT PREVENTING TANKER ACCIDENTS SUCH AS THAT OF THE AMOCO CADIZ. IMCO IS TAKING EXPEDITIOUS ACTION WITH STRONG SUPPORT FROM THE U.K., U.S., AND OTHER MARITIME STATES TO CONSIDER AND IMPLEMENT THESE AND RELATED FRENCH PROPOSALS. U.K. DEL TO IMCO MEETING CONFIRMS U.K. UNWILLINGNESS TO REOPEN LOS TEXT PROVISIONS DEALING WITH PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT. IT IS PREPARED TO SUPPORT SPECIFIC REMEDIAL ACTIONS IN IMCO. AS INDICATED REF B, EMBASSY IS READY, IF SO DIRECTED, TO DISCUSS ANY U.S. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO LOS TEXT IN THESE AREAS WITH APPROPRIATE U.K. OFFICIALS.
END SUMMARY

2. AS A RESULT OF THE AMOCO CADIZ DISASTER, FRANCE HAS MADE A SERIES OF PROPOSALS IN THE IMCO MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE (MSC) MEETING HERE IN LONDON APRIL 17-21. PROMINENT AMONG THEM ARE PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEMES ALONG ITS COASTS OFF THE ISLANDS OF USHANT AND THE CASQUETS. THE U.K., U.S., F.R.G., NORWAY, FINLAND, AND OTHER IMCO MEMBER STATES SUPPORTED THE FRENCH REQUEST FOR EXPEDITIOUS CONSIDERATION OF ITS PROPOSALS AND HAVE FORMED AN AD HOC WORKING GROUP WHICH BEGAN MEETINGS APRIL 18 TO CONSIDER THEM. THE INTENTION IS THAT THEY WILL BE APPROVED WITHIN IMCO SO THAT THEY MAY BE IMPLEMENTED OFFICIAL USE

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MENTED OCTOBER 1, 1978 WHEN OTHER CHANGES TO TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEMES GO INTO EFFECT. OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN INVITED TO LOOK AT THEIR TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEMES IN THE LIGHT OF THE AMOCO CADIZ DISASTER AND THE FRENCH PROPOSALS AND PROPOSE ANY APPROPRIATE CHANGES FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE SAFETY OF NAVIGATION SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING JULY 31-AUGUST 4. THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP WILL ALSO CONSIDER THE FEASIBILITY AND POSSIBILITY OF SPECIAL REPORTING PROCEDURES FOR LARGE TANKERS AND OTHER DANGEROUS CARGO SHIPS. EMBASSY HAS SENT IMCO DOCUMENTS RE FRENCH PROPOSALS IN BOTH ENGLISH AND FRENCH TO U.S. LOS DEL IN GENEVA VIA INTERNATIONAL MAIL.

3. WITH REGARD TO FRENCH UNILATERAL DECLARATIONS REQUIRING TANKERS PASSING CRITICAL AREAS ALONG FRENCH COAST TO CHECK IN WITH FRENCH AUTHORITIES AND REPORT ANY CASUALTIES WHICH COULD POSSIBLY LEAD TO OIL POLLUTION, INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF SHIPPING (ICS) OBSERVER AT MSC ANNOUNCED THAT ICS HAS ASKED ALL ITS SHIPOWNER MEMBERS TO VOLUNTARILY IMPLEMENT REPORTING PROCEDURES UNDER ARTICLE III, PROTOCOL 1

OF 1973 MARINE POLLUTION CONVENTION (MARPOL) WHICH
HAS NOT YET COME INTO FORCE.

4. DURING COURSE OF MSC MEETING APRIL 17, IMCO SEC
GEN SRIVASTAVA SET FORTH HIS VIEW OF WHAT IMCO SHOULD
DO TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF LESSONS OF AMOCO CADIZ DISASTER:

A) MARPOL '73 REPORTING PROCEDURES NEED TO BE
EXAMINED BY IMCO MEMBER STATES TO SEE IF THEY
SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED.

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
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B) THE 1910 CONVENTION FOR THE UNIFICATION OF
CERTAIN RULES OF LAW RELATING TO ASSISTANCE AND

SALVAGE AT SEA SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THE
IMCO LEGAL COMMITTEE FOR EXAMINATION AND CON-
SIDERATION WHETHER A MORE COMPREHENSIVE CON-
VENTION IN THIS AREA SHOULD BE DEVELOPED
WITHIN IMCO.
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C) HIGH PRIORITY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ADVANCE PLANNING
TO DEAL WITH OIL POLLUTION ACCIDENTS AND TO THE
DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL OR SUB-REGIONAL AGREE-
MENTS FOR COMBATING POLLUTION AND FOR DEALING
WITH AN OIL POLLUTION DISASTER.

SRIVASTAVA PICTURED WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF THE
AMOCO CADIZ DISASTER HAD OCCURRED IN THE MEDITER-
RANEAN AND POINTED OUT THE INADEQUACY OF THE
RECENTLY ESTABLISHED IMCO OIL POLLUTION CENTER IN
MALTA, WHICH WAS ONLY INTENDED FOR INFORMATION
EXCHANGE.

5. IN PRIVATE DISCUSSION, EMBOFF RAISED WITH HEAD
OF U.K. DEL TO MSC, JOHN ARCHER, THE POSSIBILITY OF
MAKING CHANGES IN LOS TEXT ON PROTECTION OF THE
MARINE ENVIRONMENT TO PARALLEL INTERNATIONAL REGU-
LATION OF TANKERS BEING DEVELOPED IN IMCO. ARCHER
SAID THAT IN U.K. VIEW PRESENT LOS TEXT WENT SUFFI-
ICIENTLY FAR AND SHOULD NOT BE REOPENED. HE THOUGHT
THAT ANY PROBLEMS SHOULD AND COULD BE HANDLED
STRICTLY WITHIN IMCO. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE
THINKING OF DEPT. AND US LOS DEL REGARDING DIFFERING
ROLES IN PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT OF
AN LOS TREATY AND OF IMCO.

6. AS INDICATED REF B, EMBASSY IS PREPARED TO MAKE
SUBSTANTIVE APPROACHES SUGGESTED REF C TO LUARD AND
OTHER APPROPRIATELY PLACED U.K. OFFICIALS IN FAVOR
OF AMENDING LOS TEXT PROVISIONS FOR PROTECTION OF
THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND MARINE LIFE. TO BE
EFFECTIVE, HOWEVER, EMBASSY WOULD, OF COURSE, NEED
UP-TO-DATE STATEMENT OF U.S. AMENDMENT PROPOSALS
(REF C PROVIDED ONLY INITIAL THOUGHTS ON THE
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SUBJECT) AND RELEVANT SUPPORTING ARGUMENTS.
BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: MARINE SAFETY, MARINE TRANSPORTATION, MEETINGS, ACCIDENTS, MEETING REPORTS
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Draft Date: 19 apr 1978
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780441/aaaabicl.tel
Line Count: 222
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION DLOS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Reference: 78 GENEVA 5657, 78 LONDON 4958
Retention: 0
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Review Release Event: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: PLOS, EWWT, PORG, FR, IMCO
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Type: TE
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